

# FAROESE PERFINs

by James H. Baker

On January 30, 1975, the Faroe Islands, a possession of Denmark, began to issue its own postal paper. Fourteen regular postage stamps, ranging in value from 5 öre to 500 öre, comprise the first set of definitives bearing the name "Føroyar" (see Figure 1).

While examining a collection of used stamps from a correspondent on the islands, the author discovered one 90 öre perforated with the initials "V.L." (Figure 2) and postmarked Tórshavn. The postmaster of Tórshavn was contacted and the author was referred to the department store, P. F. Valdemar Lutzen of Tórshavn.



Figure 1



Figure 2

A letter to the owners was graciously answered by a complete set of the above-mentioned stamps, perforated with the initials "V.L.," placed on cover, and postmarked Tórshavn. The enclosed letter stated that "these stamps are not used in business any longer, but we have the old machine to perforate the stamps."

Provisional Danish stamps were utilized in the Faroes in 1919 and during World War II. However, none appear to have been perforated (Wowern 1975). Therefore, this appears to be the first listing of a perforated Faroese stamp (Figure 2). If any reader knows of other examples, please contact the author at 21 Pine Dale, Apt. 8 Houston, Texas 77006.

#### Literature cited:

Anonymous. 1975 Stamps for the Faroe Islands. Scott Monthly Journal 56(3): 10-16.

Wowern, E. 1975. 1975 Faroe Islands: Postmarks, provisional postage stamps, and proper postage stamps, 5th edition. GF Catalogue No. 10, GF Frimaerker, Floradelen, Denmark.

The very kind assistance of the Tórshavn Postkontor and the staff of P. F. Valdemar Lutzen of Tórshavn is gratefully acknowledged.